

# August 2016 Watershed E-news

## From the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

### Watershed Planning Activities, What's New, Things You Should Know



#### *You're Invited*

North Branch Planning Committee's Annual Meeting  
August 10, 2016  
Hosted by the Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe

Join us for this special annual meeting hosted by the Chicago Botanic Garden starting at 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday, August 10. You will hear about the Garden's green roof project evaluation program and the 200+ different plants that were grown on the green roof in a six-year trial completed in 2014. We will also tour Garden's lake and pond shoreline projects designed with natives plants to yield riparian landscapes aesthetically pleasing while enhancing fragile shoreline habitats.

RSVP required by August 5 to [Darcy McNeill](#), 847-377-7707.

See the [Agenda](#) for detailed parking and meeting information.

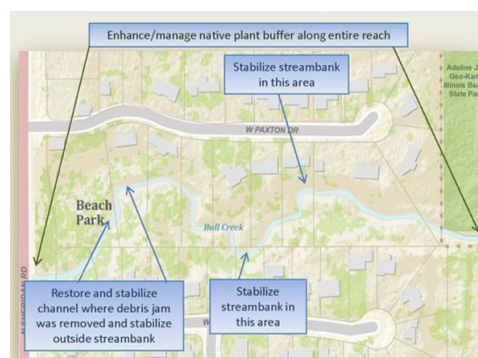
### Bull Creek Restoration Project Construction to Begin

Erosion remediation and improved water quality and aquatic habitat are the focus of the Bull Creek restoration project getting underway soon in Beach Park. The project is being funded by a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) \$446,403 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant awarded to SMC. The USEPA grant will be used in addition to a previous \$57,000 grant award from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to complete the project construction.

Project elements to be installed along the creek between Sheridan Road and the Union Pacific Railroad include:

- enhancement and installation of rock riffles to provide grade control and additional aquatic habitat;
- installation of rock toe to stabilize eroding streambanks;
- restoration of eroded streambanks by re-grading and re-vegetating with native plant seed, native plant plugs, and erosion control blanket;
- management of vegetation in the stream buffer throughout the project reach.

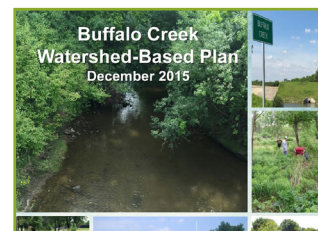
SMC will provide project updates on the [Dead River Watershed web page](#).



Disclaimer: This project is funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement GL-00E01926-0 to Lake County Stormwater Management Commission. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does the EPA endorse trade names or recommend the use of commercial products that may be mentioned in this document.

### BCCWP Taking Buffalo Creek Watershed-Based Plan On the Road

The Buffalo Creek Clean Water Partnership (BCCWP) is spearheading local adoption of the Buffalo Creek Watershed Plan. The SMC and Buffalo Grove Park District were the first adopters followed by the Lake County Board and the Village of Buffalo Grove in June 2016. Jeff Weiss, Founder, BCCWP is approaching all twelve communities, including the Lake County communities of Barrington, Deer Park, Kildeer, Lake Zurich, and Long Grove, to adopt it. Link to the [Buffalo Creek Watershed Plan](#).



### Upcoming DPR Watershed Planning Meetings: Creating A Vision for the Future

Clean water? Reduced flooding? Green infrastructure? Wetlands? The Des Plaines River (DPR) watershed plan development meetings are an opportunity for watershed stakeholders to provide your vision of the watershed in the future. All meetings include an agenda item called "Tell It Ten," brief presentations given by a watershed group or organization doing good things in the watershed. Upcoming meetings include:

- August 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Hosted by the North Shore Reclamation District: Wastewater treatment plants, water quality improvements as part of the Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup membership meeting.
- September 14, 9 - 11 a.m., Central Permit Facility: A panel discussion on local stormwater programs as part of the quarterly Municipal Advisory Committee meeting.
- October 13, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Hosted by the Lake County Forest Preserves: Conservation initiatives and conservation group updates.

See [DPR Plan web page](#) to follow the planning process, meeting presentations and information.

## What's Happening in Our Watersheds



### St. Mary of the Lake University: A Spirited Effort to Improve Water Quality

◀ University of St. Mary of the Lake staff, the Lake County Health Department (LCHD) and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) removed 600 carp from St. Mary Lake this spring and intends to repeat the removal in the fall. IDNR estimates that 600 carp represents less than 10% of the carp population in the lake. Carp are non-native and disturb and re-suspend bottom sediments impacting water quality and aquatic habitat.

➤ LCHD is working with the University on a plant/carp enclosure study along the lake shoreline. Aquatic plants have been installed and enclosed with fencing to keep the carp out to see if the plants will establish in the lake if the carp do not disturb them.

LCHD completed new lake studies in 2015 for St. Mary, Loch Lomond, Butler and Minear Lakes in the Bull Creek - Bull's Brook watershed that will be posted on the [LCHD website](#).



### About St. Mary Lake

- Privately owned on the grounds of St. Mary on the Lake University / Seminary.
- $\frac{3}{4}$  of the lake is located in the Village of Mundelein and  $\frac{1}{4}$  in the Village of Libertyville.
- The lake was created sometime between 1915 and 1920 by damming Bull Creek, which enters the lake on the southwest corner.
- This is a "flow through" system, with the water entering the lake from Loch Lomond Lake via Bull Creek and then exiting on the east side over a spillway and flows to Butler Lake eventually reaching the Des Plaines River.

### Make Your Lake a Priority

There are over 75 inland lakes in the county and you can help monitor the water quality and conditions of one near you. The Lake County Health Department - Lakes Management Unit (LMU) is looking for volunteers for its Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP).

As a volunteer, you will help document water quality by sampling on a regular basis. The program can help increase citizen knowledge about factors that affect lake quality, and encourage homeowners living around lakes to develop and implement a lake protection management plan.

The VLMP is free to participants. All equipment, training, materials, shipping, sample analysis, and paperwork is provided at no cost to the volunteer. The only thing a volunteer needs to have is a boat, an anchor, the necessary safety equipment such as a life-jacket, and enthusiasm! For more information, contact [Alana Bartolai](#), 847-377-8009.

### Local Groups are Great Resources for Your Resources

#### *Greater Pistakee Lake Watershed Partnership*

The new group launched earlier this year is headed up by the Fox Waterway Agency. See the group's [Facebook page](#) for upcoming meetings and activities.

#### *Diamond Lake Preservation Alliance*

Alliance meetings are open to all interested in protecting and prolonging the longevity of the lake's health. See [DLPA](#) for upcoming meeting information.

*Watch for more information about a fall workshop on putting a lake management plan together. See the [Lakes Management Unit web page](#).*



## 2017 WMB Cost-Share Program Seeking Project Proposals

Requests for proposals (RFP) will open on August 5 for SMC's annual Watershed Management Board (WMB) cost-share grant program. Projects submitted are assessed and prioritized based on nine benefit criteria (inter-jurisdictional, flood hazard reduction, structural damage, water quality, natural resources, nuisance flood reduction, multiple use, outside funding utilization, and a phosphorous public education component).

A portion of the annual WMB funds is allocated to the Watershed Management Assistance Grant (WMAG). WMAG targets watershed group outreach, membership building, and education.

Watch the [WMB page](#) for the RFP. If you have questions, contact the following SMC staff:

Fox River Watershed: **Sharon Osterby**, 847-377-7706

Des Plaines River Watershed: **Neil Schnindelar**, 847-377-7730

North Branch Chicago River Watershed: **Ashley Warren**, 847-377-7710

Lake Michigan Watershed: **Kelcey Traynoff**, 847-377-7711

## Happy Trails - Bull Creek Trail Extension Now Open

A bike and walking trail extension is now open from the Timber Creek and Bull Creek Subdivisions in unincorporated Libertyville Township to the existing Libertyville Nature Preserve trail. The roughly mile long extension provides a critical link to the Des Plaines River Trail at Independence Grove. The project was a partnership between Libertyville Township, Village of Libertyville, and ComEd. Project partners also worked with the Lake County Forest Preserve District and Lake County Division of Transportation to identify the route and preliminary cost.

"The Township is grateful for the opportunity to partner with so many on this project. It is a wonderful addition to our County's regional trail system," Kathleen O'Connor, Supervisor, Libertyville Township.

The Lake County Audubon Society (LCAS) has secured several grants to fund birdscaping projects within the trail corridor and is providing financial support for restoration efforts in the wetlands. Learn more about the Society's birdscaping projects in the Liberty Prairie Reserve on P. 4 of the [Bull Creek-Bull's Brook watershed e-news](#)!



Above (l-r): ComEd's Carlo Caravello and Libertyville Township Supervisor Kathleen O'Connor. Photo by Jonathan Happ. Below: New signage welcomes bikers and hikers to the Bull Creek trail extension. Photo by Mick Zwaslik, Daily Herald.



## Public Input Needed on All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan update

Lake County and all interested municipalities are in the process of updating the Lake County All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (ANHMP). The ANHMP identifies activities and projects to reduce the damages caused by natural hazards such as tornadoes, floods, and severe summer and winter storms. Mitigation means anything that can be done to reduce the impact of a natural hazard.

Public input and comments are important and all Lake County residents and property owners are encouraged to complete a short survey that can be found on the Internet at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HSMTMRL>.

Survey responses provided will help Lake County prioritize natural hazards that could impact residents and property owners, and to determine how to be better prepared for natural hazard emergencies.



## Libertyville Township's Casey Road Restoration To Get Underway in Fall

Libertyville Township will begin restoration of its agricultural fields along Casey Road as planned for in the Casey Road Land Use Plan adopted by the Township in 2014.

Conserve Lake County was been awarded a grant from the Donnelly Foundation, and the Township was awarded an SMC Watershed Management Board (WMB) grant to disable drain tiles and begin restoration of wetland and prairie on the south side of Casey Road in the fields east and upstream of Liberty Prairie. The fields flow to a headwater tributary to Bull Creek North and restoration will include restoring the wetland hydrology and native seeding. Project work is expected to begin this fall.

## DRWW Seeking a Technical Program Manager

The Technical Manager (TM) will work with the Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW) Executive Board, Committees, Members, Administrative Group and regulatory agencies. The TM will work as part of a team to implement; a comprehensive monitoring program (aquatic life, physical habitat, dissolved oxygen, water column and sediment chemistry and chloride management strategies); watershed assessment activities; nutrient removal planning; nutrient trading programs, and to pursue and manage grant and funding opportunities related to the work of the DRWW.

\$35 - \$50 per hour DOQ. Flexible work schedule.

Required Contractor Qualifications include:

- BS (MS or higher degree desirable) in environmental engineering, earth sciences, or related field.
- 7 years+ of professional experience in environmental consulting, water quality monitoring, wastewater management, stormwater management, watershed management or environmental project management.
- Experience and ability presenting technical matter to various audiences
- Familiarity with the Clean Water Act and related POTW/MS4 regulations

Deadline for Qualifications Submission: **September 1st, 2016**

Please submit your professional qualifications to [mwarner@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:mwarner@lakecountyil.gov)

For more information on the DRWW, please visit our website at [www.DRWW.org](http://www.DRWW.org)

## North Branch Planning Committee May 2016 Meeting Presentations

### *How Has the North Branch Watershed Changed?*

For a 2nd edition of *The Chicago River: a Natural and Unnatural History*, author Libby Hill is researching changes that have occurred to the river and watershed in Lake and Cook Counties since about 1999. Libby is particularly interested in any changes affecting the ecological integrity of the North Branch. They may be changes that have already occurred or are proposed or are in the works. Changes would include any restoration projects on land or water on or near the river. The context in which those changes were proposed would be important and might range from necessary repair to modifications motivated by the use of Green Infrastructure. Please send any information or questions to Libby at [libbyhill@comcast.net](mailto:libbyhill@comcast.net).



*Author Libby Hill and LCFPD's Jim Anderson were the guest speakers at the North Branch Planning Committee's May meeting.*

### *LCFPD's 100-Year Vision for Lake County: A Green Infrastructure Strategy*

The Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) envisions that 100 years from now Lake County will be a healthy and resilient landscape with restored and preserved natural lands and cultural assets. Jim Anderson, LCFPD's Director of Natural Resources, presented the 100-Year Vision and talked about the development of a Green Infrastructure (GI) Model and Strategy project.

The project enhances the Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision product and builds a more refined GI strategy and model for Lake County and adjacent lands. A Geographic Information System model will provide planning information to identify three 10,000-acre ecological complexes, large-scale restoration projects, Lake Michigan ecological resources, water quality improvement of water resources, and a valuation of ecosystem services.

With this tool regional, local and community planners can develop plans that protect valuable natural resources and implement green infrastructure practices to decrease flooding, increase infiltration, improve water quality/quantity and provide buffers to critical ecological resources in the county. See [The Conservation Fund](#) web page to follow project progress.

## Foray, Foray!

Every year the Chicago Botanic Garden's Plants of Concern (POC) program arranges group rare-plant monitoring sessions (forays) as a chance for to collect data on priority populations. Please join us for monitoring rare plant populations alongside POC staff, staff from partner agencies, and other citizen scientists.

- Tuesday, August 16, Illinois Beach State Park, Zion
- Wednesday, September 14, Illinois Beach State Park, Zion

**Register on our website!**



## We're not trying to rush summer, but get these on your calendar!

- *Beyond the Basics Conference: The Devil's In the Details, September 13-14, 2016*  
Presentations that go Beyond the Basic information about what Best Management Practices (BMPs) are and how they work, where they are best used, how can they be used with other BMPs and equally important, what can go wrong, and where they do NOT work. [For more information.](#)
- *Deicing Workshops: Parking lots/sidewalks October 4, Roads October 5, 2016*  
The annual workshops provide private and professional snow plow drivers and deicing professionals updated deicing techniques and best practices. Watch the [SMC website](#) for more information.

## Green Infrastructure Designs: Scalable Solutions to Local Challenges

As many municipalities are increasingly interested in green infrastructure as tool for stormwater management, they often lack the capacity and technical expertise for implementation. To help municipal managers and decision-makers begin exploring and implementing green infrastructure, Delta Institute created this practical toolkit which features scalable tools and design templates.

Download [here](#).

## Illinois Photo Contest: What Water Means to You

Illinois photographers are invited to share photos that capture what water means to them, their communities, and the state in the second annual “**Water Is**” photo contest. Photos will be featured in the 2017 **Illinois Water** magazine and on host websites. Email your submissions to Anjanette Riley at [aeriley@illinois.edu](mailto:aeriley@illinois.edu) by August 31, 2016. See “**Water Is**” for submittal guidance.



## What is Lake County Life?

Well, it's all of the things that make Lake County, Illinois special. It's our natural beauty, our schools and businesses, the active and healthy people who live, work, and play here, and so much more. See what makes **Lake County Life** special.

## Watershed partners abound.

Check one out near you.